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UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

PART III. EUROPE

Section 4 - Central Europe

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02470

III.4 CENTRAL EUROPE

1. This chapter covers UNHCR activities in Albania, Austria, Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania and Slovakia.

2. In addition to Austria, the UNHCR Regional Office in Vienna covers activities in the Czech Republic, Poland and Slovakia. The other UNHCR Offices in Albania, Bulgaria, Romania and the Branch Office in Hungary report directly to Headquarters.

3. UNHCR's activities in Central Europe focus on protection, refugee law promotion, institution-building, training and limited assistance programmes for asylum-seekers where national structures do not exist for this purpose. Efforts centre on establishing fair and effective eligibility procedures to which asylum-seekers can have access. While the number of recognized refugees remains limited in Central and Eastern Europe, most countries provide temporary protection to significant numbers of persons fleeing conflict areas in former Yugoslavia. These countries are also affected by transit migration movements, which often blur the distinction between migrants and genuine asylum-seekers. To stem irregular movements of people, border controls have been intensified. UNHCR has also stepped up border missions to sensitize officials to the rights of refugees.

4. While all Central European States have become signatories to the 1951 Convention and its 1967 Protocol, only two have adopted national legislation implementing the provisions of these instruments. UNHCR is providing assistance to those countries whose legislation remains at the drafting stage. Meanwhile, a large number of readmission agreements have been concluded between both the European Union and Central European countries. Enacting refugee legislation in Central European countries assumes additional importance in order to afford asylum-seekers access to eligibility procedures. UNHCR continues to support the nascent non-governmental organization (NGO) movement, notably in cooperation with the European Consultation on Refugees and Exiles (ECRE).

A. Austria

1. Beneficiary population

5. According to the Austrian Government an estimated 80,000 Bosnian refugees have benefited from the temporary protection regime since 1 April 1992. The number of Bosnian refugees assisted under the special assistance scheme decreased from 24,573 on 31 December 1994 to 22,639 at the end of March 1995, of whom 41 per cent are accommodated in public premises or facilities rented by the Government and 59 per cent are living in private accommodation. The decrease is due to integration into the labour market.

6. During the year, the number of refugees who were granted asylum in Austria remained fairly stable; at the end of December 1994 some 18,494 from various countries were granted asylum in Austria.

7. In 1994, 5,082 persons sought asylum in Austria. The majority originated from Iraq, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Turkey and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Based on the fact that the Austrian authorities took some 9,295 negative decisions in 1994, the rate for granting asylum dropped slightly from 7.8 per cent in 1993 to 7.6 per cent in 1994. During the first quarter of 1995 the number of asylum applications remained at some 400 per month. However, given the combination of more asylum-seekers from Bosnia and Herzegovina and the processing of long-pending cases, the rate for granting asylum stands at 25.6 per cent.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

8. In April 1995, Austria introduced visa requirements for Bosnian citizens. As from mid 1995 the right of residence for Bosnian refugees under the temporary protection scheme has been prolonged for one year (an improvement over the past, when the temporary residence permit was extended only for six months at a time). At the end of April 1995, an amendment to the Residence Law was adopted by the Parliament, improving some of the provisions such as family reunion and residence possibilities of foreigners living in Austria.

9. After the parliamentary elections in October 1994 a document discussing the main areas of the 1991 Asylum Act where, in the view of UNHCR, amendments are called for, was submitted for consideration to the Government. Upon UNHCR's request an expert group has been established by the Ministry of the Interior in order to discuss UNHCR's proposals listed in the above document. As from early 1995 the Government started to review the asylum/aliens policy, including the legislation and concomitant procedures on the basis of humanitarian principles. UNHCR has been invited to follow-up on the issues concerning the amendments to the 1991 Asylum Law with senior government officials.

10. In follow-up to the UNHCR-NGO Partnership in Action (PARinAC), a meeting of over 60 Austrian NGOs took place in November 1994 with representatives of the Ministry of the Interior. Following this meeting the permanent Joint Refugee Commission, composed of ten major Austrian NGOs and UNHCR as an observer, has been established to identify and support persons who, while needing protection, are not provided the required assistance in Austria. A joint UNHCR-NGO meeting is scheduled to take place in 1995.

11. The UNHCR-CARITAS Legal Counselling project constitutes an essential tool for UNHCR in the fulfillment of its protection function. Owing to the legal framework, the authorities and Higher Courts are regularly seized of legal issues affecting many refugees. The number of new cases given legal advice and/or represented by the lawyers and/or the Project Coordinator increased from 536 in 1993 to 620 in 1994. In 1994 and 1995 the project focused on five main protection areas of which most of the problems were related to detention pending deportation and the principle of non-refoulement. Due to the heavy workload in 1994, lawyers working under the project were not in a position to assist all refugees/asylum-seekers who fulfill the criteria for referral to the project and were deemed to be in need of assistance. Therefore, the number of part-time lawyers working under the project increased to eleven. The lawyers' involvement in

preparing well argued and cogent cases has proved to be useful (e.g., a decision rendered by the Higher Administrative Court in 1994 for the first time aligned the treatment of deserters and draft evaders with Executive Committee conclusions). Savings in the project implemented by CARITAS were largely offset by the declining exchange rate of the United States dollar.

12. In order to make a constructive contribution to durable solutions in Austria and to encourage and reinforce the commitment of NGOs as well as to generate public awareness/interest in refugee issues, UNHCR presented for the first time an award to the most successful refugee implementing project by an NGO. The 1994 UNHCR Award achieved not only wide media coverage but also helped many local NGOs in getting more credibility vis-à-vis their donors.

13. Temporary protection beneficiaries are permitted to work. They are listed as third priority category after unemployed Austrians and migrant workers who have already lived in Austria for a longer period of time. The number of employed "war refugees" from Bosnia and Herzegovina (not including non-assisted refugees and those granted asylum according to the 1991 Asylum Law) decreased from 6,504 in March 1994 to 5,109 in March 1995. The total number of Bosnian citizens employed, including those who were part of the older Yugoslav workforce in Austria, increased from 10,343 in March 1994 to 20,268 in March 1995.

3. 1996 country programme

(a) Objectives

14. UNHCR will continue to intensify efforts connected with European Union affairs in the harmonization discussions.

15. UNHCR will focus on its cooperation with the Government providing information on the situation of countries and expert opinions as well as support for training activities.

16. UNHCR will also continue the dialogue with the Government concerning relevant legislation and procedures to bring such legislation into compliance with international law. In this connection UNHCR will reiterate its concerns related to the situation of illegal refugees residing in Austria with the aim of legalizing their status.

17. In addition, UNHCR will make provisions for a continued strengthening of the UNHCR-CARITAS Legal Counselling project. The Aliens and Asylum Acts foresee a series of procedures applying to asylum-seekers who are neither versed in Austrian Law nor fluent in German. Consequently they face various difficulties in safeguarding their protection needs and multiple interventions by lawyers for a single case are common. On the question of Bosnian refugees UNHCR will make every effort to reinforce its negotiations with the Government in order to ensure that Bosnians are not deported to their home country, that persons entitled to international protection enjoy a legal status while in Austria and that integration measures, including psycho-social counselling, are adequately secured.

18. UNHCR will continue to strengthen its cooperation with NGOs, not only through regular country-wide and joint training of NGO staff working in the field of refugees, but also through continuous contacts, providing relevant information and legal advice either directly (e.g. the Joint Refugee Commission) or through the UNHCR-CARITAS Legal Counselling Project.

19. In 1996 UNHCR plans to present a third annual award to the most successful refugee implementing project put into effect by an NGO.

20. Greater focus will be placed on the situation of refugee women and children. To date little information is available on the specific reasons of flight of refugee women, their treatment during the asylum procedure, or possibilities for integration in Austria, in particular with regard to language skills, labour market access, social status, etc. To enable UNHCR to properly focus on the needs of refugee women and children an in-depth analysis on the needs of refugee women will be commissioned.

(b) Proposed budget for 1996

21. Assistance foreseen for 1995 will continue through 1996 focusing mainly on the legal counselling project and the training of NGO staff including the undertaking of a study on the specific situation of refugee women.

(c) Implementing partners

22. CARITAS -Austria continues to be UNHCR's implementing partner for the Legal Counselling Project and will continue to cover 60 per cent of the salary and salary-related costs of the Project Coordinator and 100 per cent of the costs of a full-time secretary. Through its country-wide refugee social counselling structure CARITAS staff will work in close cooperation with the Project Coordinator and the lawyers working under the project.

23. Other activities will be implemented directly by the Regional Office in close coordination with CARITAS.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

24. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I (A/AC.96/845) refers).

(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)

25. The 1994 expenditure was not significantly different from revised estimates.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

26. The revised 1995 requirements are slightly higher than the initial estimates due to the creation of an additional secretariat post and to the fall in the value of the United States dollar.

(iii) Initial 19996 requirements (all sources of funds)

27. Initial 1996 requirements are not significantly different from revised 1995 requirements.

B. Hungary

1. Beneficiary population

28. By the end of 1994, Hungary hosted some 2,900 Convention refugees, including 1,800 Romanians and 900 persons from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. In addition, some 7,700 persons from the former Yugoslavia benefit from temporary protection (1,729 accommodated in collective centres and the rest in private accommodation).

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

29. Due to Hungary's application of the geographic limitation to the 1951 Convention, UNHCR has a direct responsibility for the status determination of non-European asylum seekers and the provision of assistance to those who are recognized by UNHCR (Mandate refugees). Registered refugees from the former Yugoslavia continue to benefit from government assistance. They do not have automatic legal access to labour markets, however, and they require permits from the local labour authorities.

30. Mandate refugees are normally granted residence permits renewable on a regular basis. Since integration into Hungarian society is extremely difficult, they sometimes decide to leave Hungary illegally. UNHCR is engaged in a dialogue with the Government to obtain permission for recognized non-European refugees to be allowed to integrate in Hungary. UNHCR will continue to pressure the Government to submit a draft law to Parliament on refugees, which would deal inter alia with the situation of refugees under temporary protection, to regularize their status and detail their rights and responsibilities.

31. Until such a time as the geographic limitation is lifted, UNHCR will continue to provide for reception, accommodation and integration of non-European asylum-seekers and refugees. As in previous years, assistance is provided in health care, social counselling, education as well as legal and social counselling to refugees and asylum-seekers. This assistance will continue in 1996.

32. UNHCR's primary objective is to reinforce the infrastructure concerning refugees by supporting the Government and NGOs through guidance and training activities.

33. While some refugees from the former Yugoslavia expect to return, others view integration as a more realistic option. UNHCR's objective is to assist the Government in creating conditions conducive to integration. The Government seems ready to ease their access to the labour market.

34. As a result, in March 1995 an agreement was reached with the Government to reorient the care and maintenance programme for refugees from the former Yugoslavia towards self-sufficiency. UNHCR's contribution will be used primarily for assistance to privately accommodated refugees and to strengthen their capacity for self-sufficiency, particularly through language and vocational training, apprenticeship, business grants, etc. Assuming no changes in factors affecting the movement of asylum-seekers into Hungary take place in 1995, the number of registered refugees should decrease and, as a result of the assistance programme to privately accommodated refugees, the number of refugees in need of assistance should decrease in 1996. It is proposed to cover all care and maintenance needs under the General Programmes for 1996 and therefore an increased allocation is proposed.

35. The responsibility for reception, accommodation and integration of European refugees lies with the Ministry of Interior. UNHCR offers complementary assistance to privately accommodated refugees as well as means to develop their capacity to become self-sufficient. Care and maintenance of non-European refugees continues to be provided by UNHCR's main operational partner, the Hungarian Red Cross. Both the Hungarian Red Cross and Inter Church Aid are regularly involved in refugee work and have gradually assumed greater responsibility in providing social and legal counselling and care and maintenance to both groups of refugees. In addition, UNHCR will encourage other NGOs to assist in projects related to the integration of refugees into Hungarian society.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

36. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I (A/AC.96/845) refers).

(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)

37. The 1994 expenditure was not significantly different from revised estimates.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

38. The revised 1995 requirements do not vary significantly from the initial estimates.

(iii) Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)

39. The 1996 requirements are similar to those of the 1995 revised estimates.

C. Other Countries in Central Europe

1. Albania

40. As of 31 December 1994, some 3,000 to 5,000 persons from the former Yugoslavia are reported to have sought refuge in Albania. Kosovars who have sought temporary refuge are largely integrated in the northern provinces of Tropoja, Puka,

Kukes, Shkodra and Tirana. Others who have sought refuge in Albania are from Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Montenegro (Federal Republic of Yugoslavia) and are currently living in Tirana and Shkodra.

41. Albania became a signatory to the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees on 18 August 1992 and the Government makes every effort to adhere to its provisions. In promoting suitable legislation on migration and the status of refugees, amendments proposed by UNHCR were incorporated in the draft law which is now pending discussion by the Council of Ministers. This law is expected to enter into force by the end of the current year. Consequently, a draft decision to establish the Office of the National Commission for Refugees is under consideration by the Council of Ministers.

42. Given the economic difficulties, the Albanian Government concentrates its scarce resources on assistance to ethnic Albanians. A potential major influx from neighbouring countries would place a considerable strain on its ability to deal with this. Consequently, UNHCR, in cooperation with the Inter-Ministerial Commission for Refugees (IMCR) and the Albanian Red Cross is at present updating a Contingency Plan developed in 1992. Information is to be gathered on potential operational partners with the aim of assisting a target population of some 100,000 refugees.

43. In April 1994, the Albanian Government signed a cooperation agreement for the operating of the UNHCR Liaison Office in Tirana. In 1995 and 1996, the UNHCR Liaison Office will continue assisting the Government in establishing refugee status determination procedures and making provisions for the translation of the Handbook on Procedures and Criteria for Determining Refugee Status. The Office will also seek closer cooperation with the Council of Europe and the Albanian Helsinki Committee and will promote the operational capacity of local NGOs such as the Albanian Red Cross.

44. In 1995 a care and maintenance programme was established, funded from other programmes to cater to a small group of refugees and asylum-seekers, providing them with social/legal counselling, accommodation and subsistence allowance when necessary. The Albanian Red Cross is UNHCR's operational partner in Tirana.

2. Bulgaria

45. At 31 December 1994, there were some 1,060 persons of concern to UNHCR in Bulgaria, including 200 de facto refugees from the former Yugoslavia and almost 100 mandate refugees. Some 20 per cent of these are women. While most persons are from Afghanistan, the former Yugoslavia and the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), the number of persons from Ethiopia, Iraq and the Syrian Arab Republic increased significantly.

46. Bulgaria acceded to the 1951 Convention and 1967 Protocol on 12 May 1993. On 12 September 1994, the Council of Ministers decreed a refugee ordinance which entered into force in November 1994. All asylum-seekers are referred to the Bulgarian National Bureau on Territorial Asylum and Refugee (NBTAR). Status determination is no longer carried out by the UNHCR Liaison Office in Bulgaria but

by the National Bureau.

47. All Mandate refugees and 67 refugees from the former Yugoslavia continue to receive assistance from the local settlement project while the other persons are primarily under the care of the Bulgarian authorities. There are no reception/registration centres in Bulgaria and the assistance available to them is minimal. The 1994 project, implemented by the Bulgarian Red Cross, included health care, social counselling, an employment network, accommodation/subsistence as well as educational support and language training. In 1996, the care and maintenance project is designed mainly to assist persons of concern from the former Yugoslavia registered with NBTAR.

48. To date, virtually no refugees have attained self-sufficiency. The main programme objectives of the local settlement project for 1995 and the care and maintenance project for 1996 therefore focus on the social and economic integration of recognized refugees.

49. The majority of persons from the former Yugoslavia who found temporary protection in Bulgaria left for other countries, particularly in Western Europe, in the absence of viable integration possibilities.

50. Legal assistance and training focuses on refugee law, advanced courses on procedural aspects aimed at magistrates and other decision-makers, and on interviewing techniques. Administrative support is provided by NBTAR and NGOs concerned with refugee law. Legal assistance for asylum-seekers and refugees aims at providing counselling and advice on the whole refugee determination process, as well as their rights.

51. Owing to the increase in the number of persons requiring assistance and the lack of alternative support systems, the local settlement amount for 1995 for individual support, health care and social services had to be increased. The increase of the care and maintenance allocation for 1996 is primarily due to the inclusion of the assistance programme for refugees from the former Yugoslavia in the General Programmes. The assistance given will also serve to support the establishment of a network of lawyers to provide legal counselling to asylum-seekers and refugees at all stages of the refugee status determination procedure.

3. The Czech Republic

52. As at 31 December 1994, there were some 2,400 persons of concern to UNHCR in the Czech Republic, most of whom were accommodated in three types of refugee centres: four asylum-seeker centres (mainly Armenians and Bosnians); eleven humanitarian centres (some 1,200 persons from the former Yugoslavia); and nine integration centres (for recognized refugees). In addition, there were some 1,800 persons of concern residing outside these centres.

53. The Government is planning to prepare new legislation regarding foreigners in 1995, including a new asylum law. UNHCR will comment on the draft asylum law and on other legal provisions that may be relevant to refugees. The

objective for 1995 and 1996 is to focus on ensuring that asylum-seekers have access to determination procedures and on establishing and maintaining a fair status determination procedure. A further objective is to assist recognized refugees with local integration and to assimilate those benefiting from temporary refuge. In response to the introduction of new asylum legislation in Germany and other European countries, access to Czech asylum procedures has become increasingly restrictive.

54. The current decree granting temporary refuge to persons from the former Yugoslavia is being extended. With regard to persons who have been granted temporary refuge due to their extended stay, avenues are being sought to facilitate their eventual local integration. Meanwhile, with a view to facilitating integration, UNHCR through its operational partners, provides vocational training to adults. The Czech Department for Refugees is coordinating a programme of psychological counselling for persons from the former Yugoslavia, which is funded by UNHCR and is implemented by the Association for Social and Psychological Aid (LOCUS).

55. Recognized refugees currently receive government integration assistance. Through its operational partners, UNHCR provides legal and social counselling to refugees on access to social programmes including social welfare, education, employment and housing. In 1996, it is planned to include assistance to refugees from the former Yugoslavia in the General Programmes.

56. The Government provides basic care and maintenance to asylum-seekers and persons with temporary refuge residing in humanitarian centres. Some recognized refugees are provided with housing assistance in "integration centres". UNHCR, through the Helsinki Committee (Bohemia) and the Citizens Society for Aid to Immigrants (SOZE) (Moravia) is providing legal and social counselling. The Organization for Aid for Refugees (OPU) has established vocational training workshops for heads of household, particularly women from the former Yugoslavia. The European Consultation for Refugees and Exiles (ECRE) continues to provide support to NGOs through training and workshops focused on institution-building and legal issues. The Canadian Embassy has provided some funding for offices and furniture to the Helsinki Committee and SOZE and has mediated a grant to OPU for vocational training for women from a Canadian NGO. UNHCR is planning to cooperate in 1995 with CARITAS (Brno) to provide accommodation to asylum-seekers whose cases are pending for judicial review with the High Court.

57. The 1995/1996 programme priorities are to continue reinforcing legal counselling activities and promoting integration of recognized refugees through vocational training, employment and other gainful activities. SOZE and the Helsinki Committee will employ up to six lawyers and six social workers for counselling of refugees and monitoring of the legal procedures. The most serious problem encountered by the recognized refugees is to find housing in urban areas where employment opportunities exist. The Government provides accommodation as a temporary measure in integration centres for recognized refugees and as a long-term measure through housing schemes. It is expected that due to the Government's

generous policy of increased assimilation of persons benefiting from temporary protection, the number of beneficiaries in need of integration assistance may increase. Two documents are being prepared by the Government to assist in the integration of recognized refugees as well as the assimilation of those benefiting from temporary protection.

58. As no major developments have occurred with regard to repatriation to former Yugoslavia, it is foreseen that psychological counselling and vocational training activities for refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina will continue in 1996.

4. Poland

59. At 31 December 1994, Poland hosted some 400 refugees, 250 of whom were from the former Yugoslavia. The Government hosted 265 refugees and asylum-seekers in centres which are partly supported by UNHCR. Some 200 persons from the former Yugoslavia who stay in private accommodation receive only occasional assistance from the local authorities and the Polish Red Cross Society.

60. According to the Government, 90 per cent of the Bosnians in Poland who have applied for refugee status have been recognized under the 1951 Convention. Recognized refugees are issued with a Convention Travel Document, and local government authorities are instructed to issue them with visas that include a work permit. Poland is a major refugee transit country: Government figures indicate that less than 5 per cent of all potential asylum-seekers formally lodge their application in Poland; most who do have been unable to reach their desired destination. Moreover, many whose claims are being processed or who have been recognized as refugees leave Poland. With the introduction of visa requirements for citizens from the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Bosnia and Herzegovina on 1 July 1993, and the entry into force of the Polish-German readmission agreement on the same date, entries and transit movements of refugees and asylum-seekers in Poland have decreased.

61. Two divergent developments have marked the recognition policy of the Polish Government. On the one hand, 90 per cent of the Bosnian applicants have been granted Convention refugee status while the recognition rate for other nationals remains at the rate of 23 per cent in 1993 and 1994. Following interventions by UNHCR and some NGOs, the Government adopted a less restrictive approach with regard to accepting applications. Furthermore, by 1994, the Polish Government had signed readmission agreements with the Schengen States (Belgium, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, France, Germany, Italy), Ukraine, the Czech Republic, Slovakia, Romania, Bulgaria, Slovenia, Croatia, Greece, the Republic of Moldova and Hungary. The draft aliens act is expected to be passed in 1995.

62. In January 1995, the sejm (Parliament) amended the law on employment and incorporated the automatic right of recognized refugees to employment. The Government is also preparing an amendment to the law on social welfare that will grant recognized refugees the same rights to social benefits as Polish citizens.

63. Approximately 50 per cent of the refugee caseload consists of elderly persons, vulnerable women and children, who cannot take up employment. They are

provided with the necessary care in special facilities, supported jointly by the Government, NGOs and UNHCR. The transition from the present camp life to greater self-sufficiency will be assisted by legal and social counsellors working for NGOs.

64. In May 1995, the number of assisted beneficiaries remained at 200 persons including recognized refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina. Refugees from the former Yugoslavia who were assisted by the Red Cross in 1993 are now assisted by the Government. UNHCR will in 1995 and 1996 continue supporting the provision of legal and social counselling for refugees and asylum-seekers through the Helsinki Foundation and Polish Humanitarian Action (PHA). The Polish CARITAS which runs social counselling and general legal advice office will receive financial support from UNHCR as will the centre for the advancement of women (CPK) which provides social counselling for refugee women.

65. The Government will continue to discuss provisions of integration, medical, education and vocational training activities. Furthermore, the specific needs of the high proportion of elderly refugees and children have to be addressed in order to facilitate small-scale income-generation, language training and education. PHA aims to provide social counselling to an increased caseload not supported by the Government. A pilot programme for integration of refugees is being initiated by both Polish Humanitarian Action and the Polish Red Cross.

66. Local integration support will be granted to recognized refugees. In 1995 within the framework of institution-building, it is planned that by the end of 1995, NGOs (UNHCR partners) would have strengthened their network enabling UNHCR to refer up to 85 per cent of its individual cases to them. In 1995/1996, the emphasis will be to continue establishing a well-functioning and a fair refugee status determination procedure, a successful integration programme, and a strengthened NGO network. In 1996, assistance to refugees from the former Yugoslavia will be covered under General Programmes.

67. The Polish Ministry of Interior was strengthened during 1993 by financial contributions from the German Government (1993: DM 40 million; 1994: DM 80 million part of which was allocated to the Polish Refugee Office). The NGO network, however, is in need of continued support, and UNHCR will therefore provide specific training activities and limited material assistance.

5. Romania

68. By the end of 1994, Romania had registered some 1,200 persons of concern to UNHCR, mostly from Bangladesh, Iraq, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Somalia, Sudan and India. The majority are adult males, with 116 women.

69. As no legislation has been enacted implementing the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, to which Romania acceded on 7 August 1991, registration structures, status determination procedures and assistance to needy individuals are still rudimentary. Given the delay encountered in introducing status determination procedures and the minimal assistance provided to all but a

few asylum-seekers, an increasing number of asylum-seekers are destitute. State assistance in the form of basic food and accommodation for refugees at a hostel is now being withdrawn by the Government, and there is therefore no immediate prospect for integration of asylum-seekers.

70. On several occasions, UNHCR has reiterated to the Government its willingness to assist in developing appropriate national procedures and structures relating to refugee status determination. UNHCR thus provides advice in the drafting of refugee-related legislation as well as training for government officials on matters related to registration and status determination procedures. Training will also continue for members of the police and representatives of NGOs.

71. The Government of Romania has requested UNHCR funding to establish a refugee reception centre at an appropriate site yet to be identified. Based on the current need, addressing the critical housing problem of refugees and asylum-seekers is one of the principal objectives and priorities for 1995 and 1996. A provision has been made for this in the 1995 and 1996 budgets. In addition, and at the initiative of UNHCR, the Romanian authorities are now looking at the possibility of obtaining interest-free loans from the Social Development Fund of the Council of Europe to undertake this project.

72. UNHCR also contributes towards some of the costs of maintaining the facilities operated by the Committee for Migration Problems. The UNHCR care and maintenance project provides assistance, in the form of subsistence and accommodation, to newly arrived asylum-seekers and to destitute refugees as a result of the withdrawal of state assistance. While the prospects for the integration of refugees remain uncertain, efforts continue to secure access to elementary education and vocational training for recognized refugees. Income-generation activities will be pursued in 1996 through operational partners.

73. The Romanian Independent Society for Human Rights (SIRDO) is UNHCR's main operational partner. SIRDO and the Association for the Defence of Human Rights in Romania-Helsinki Committee (APADOR-CH) are also involved in legal/social counselling activities, and in promoting awareness of refugee issues.

6. Slovakia

74. At 31 December 1994, the number of refugees and asylum-seekers in Slovakia was estimated to be some 2,000 persons composed of 1,850 de facto refugees from the former Yugoslavia, 150 refugees mainly from Afghanistan, Armenia and Azerbaijan, 18 Mandate refugees, and 31 asylum-seekers. There were also 184 stateless persons . The Migration Office of the Ministry of Interior is hosting some 400 de facto refugees from the former Yugoslavia and asylum-seekers in three collective centres and some 700 have been accommodated within the framework of a host family scheme. In addition, the Ministry of Interior estimates that the number of aliens staying illegally in Slovakia is 40,000 to 60,000 some of whom may be of concern to UNHCR.

75. UNHCR continues to play a pro-active role in lobbying for fair and comprehensive refugee and human rights legislation. While the social and economic

rights of refugees were partly clarified through the issuance of internal instructions from the Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs in March 1995, the shortage of housing still hinders their proposals for a rapid integration. A new refugee law, on which UNHCR has provided detailed comments, should be adopted by Parliament in the fall of this year. A new aliens law was enacted in April 1995. The Slovak authorities extended full cooperation to UNHCR in the different stages of the drafting of these laws and regulations.

76. Through regular border missions, dialogue and intervention with the competent authorities, UNHCR protection activities mainly focus on ensuring the unhindered and effective access of all asylum-seekers to the asylum procedure. Local integration remains the most desirable solution for refugees in Slovakia. The local settlement project begun this year is designed to provide up to 1,000 asylum-seekers and refugees with social and legal counselling. In 1995, initial support will be given to a target group of 80 refugee heads of household in the fields of housing, vocational training and job placement. This assistance will continue in 1996.

77. De facto refugees from the former Yugoslavia are granted temporary protection. These persons are allowed to work subject to a work permit being granted. Those who stay in humanitarian centres receive accommodation, meals and basic medical care. Needy persons accommodated with host families may be granted social aid benefits as for Slovak citizens. The authorities do not at this stage foresee specific integration measures for de facto refugees from the former Yugoslavia since they are still considered to be merely in need of temporary protection. They benefit from assistance under the Special Programme for former Yugoslavia in the fields of vocational training, education and development of community services/activities. In 1996, it is proposed to finance these activities under General Programmes.

78. In 1995 and 1996, UNHCR will continue focusing on legal training for NGOs and Government officials who deal with refugee status determination. The aim is to improve the quality of the current status determination procedure and to create an overall awareness of refugee needs and problems. Sectoral training will focus on refugee status determination and interviewing techniques, legal and social counselling. The provision for the training of NGOs is being covered through a joint UNHCR/ECRE project. The 1996 local settlement projects has increased due to the incorporation into General Programmes of the programme of assistance to refugees from the former Yugoslavia.

79. CARITAS-Slovakia provides social orientation and support to de facto refugees and asylum-seekers coming from the former Yugoslavia. The Milan Simecka Foundation will undertake a survey aimed at making proposals to address shortcomings in the assistance programme for refugee children in the field of culture, psychological well-being, care and education. Organizacia na Pomoc Utecencom (OPU) will continue to organize the production and the distribution of a newsletter. The Bjornson Society and OPU will develop vocational training programmes for de facto refugees and other refugees aimed at facilitating effective access to the labour market. The NGO Freedom will provide educational counselling and support to refugee children attending kindergarten, primary and secondary

schools and higher education for some refugees from the former Yugoslavia. The Migration Office will continue to provide psychological/medical support to 400 de facto refugees accommodated in the three main humanitarian centres. Info Roma will provide legal counselling and support to asylum-seekers and refugees.

(a) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

80. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I (A/AC.96/845) refers).

(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)

81. The 1994 expenditure was not significantly different from revised estimates.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

82. The revised 1995 requirements are higher than the initial estimates due to the creation of posts in Bulgaria, the Czech Republic, the Slovakia, Poland and Romania.

(iii) Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)

83. The 1996 requirements are similar to those of revised 1995 estimates.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN AUSTRIA

(in thousands of United States dollars)

[illegible]	[illegible]	[illegible]		
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
[illegible]				
41.3 a/	–	–	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	–
130.3	218.4	260.0	LOCAL SETTLEMENT	260.0
0.8 a/	–	–	RESETTLEMENT	–
1,032.4	998.9	1,467.1	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	1,454.5
1,204.8	1,217.3	1,727.1	SUB–TOTAL OPERATIONS	1,714.5
270.0	220.0	257.5	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	236.6
1,474.8	1,437.3	1,984.6	GRAND TOTAL	1,951.1

a/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN HUNGARY

(in thousands of United States dollars)

AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
244.2 a/	289.5	288.6	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	1,988.6
9.2 a/	–	–	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	–
0.3 a/	–	–	RESETTLEMENT	–
293.5	273.6	293.1	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	635.3
547.2	563.1	581.7	SUB–TOTAL OPERATIONS	2,623.9
48.3	35.5	32.9	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	38.8
595.5	598.6	614.6	TOTAL (1)	2,662.7
2,406.5	4,030.0	1,900.0	HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DISPLACED PERSONS FROM THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA	–
267.6	293.7	334.5	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	–
4.4	–	–	OTHER TRUST FUNDS	–
118.1	61.2	79.0	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT Junior Professional Officer See Overview Tables (Part II)	79.0
2,816.6	4,384.9	2,313.5	TOTAL (2)	79.0
3,412.1	4,983.5	2,928.1	GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	2,741.7

a/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN OTHER COUNTRIES IN CENTRAL EUROPE

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995			1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION		SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
			GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)		
				CARE AND MAINTENANCE	
248.7	260.3	310.3	Romania		310.3
–	–	20.0 c/	Albania		–
–	–	–	Bulgaria		351.0
117.1 a/	–	940.6	Other countries		726.7
				VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	
2.5 a/	–	–	Bulgaria		–
6.7 a/	–	–	Romania		–
1.6 a/	–	–	Slovak Republic		–
2.1 a/	–	–	Poland		–
1.5 b/	–	–	Czech Republic		–
				LOCAL SETTLEMENT	
206.8	257.3	251.7	Poland		251.7
149.6	176.9	235.0	Bulgaria		–
212.5	338.3	240.0	Czech Republic		517.0
55.0	84.5	118.6	Slovak Republic		314.4
				RESETTLEMENT	
2.0 a/	–	–	Albania		–
				PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	
207.1	193.4	178.8	Albania		174.6
120.5	176.9	244.6	Bulgaria		274.4
174.7	229.5	375.4	Czech Republic		379.6
169.1	169.9	272.1	Slovak Republic		273.5
174.6	184.0	304.7	Poland		303.1
157.4	201.5	234.4	Romania		234.7
2,009.5	2,272.5	3,726.2		SUB-TOTAL OPERATIONS	4,111.0
				ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	
14.0	21.3	66.2	Bulgaria		19.8
26.3	29.9	40.9	Czech Republic		44.9
12.9	29.8	46.9	Slovak Republic		47.7
23.1	21.0	23.6	Poland		23.0
21.2	18.2	27.4	Romania		29.2
2,107.0	**2,392.7**	**3,931.2**		**TOTAL (1)**	**4,275.6**

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN OTHER COUNTRIES IN CENTRAL EUROPE

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995			1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION		SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
				SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)	
				HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO	
134.8	–	246.0	Czech Republic	DISPLACED PERSONS FROM THE	–
26.2	–	58.7	Poland	FORMER YUGOSLAVIA	–
36.5	–	140.5	Bulgaria		–
148.9	–	233.7	Slovak Republic		–
				OTHER TRUST FUNDS	
0.7	–	–	Bulgaria		–
3.0	–	–	Romania		–
2.3	–	–	Czech Republic		–
3.0	–	–	Slovak Republic		–
1.9	–	–	Poland		–
0.5	–	406.0	Other Countries		–
				ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT	
42.3	57.0	15.0	Bulgaria	Junior Professional Officer	15.0
62.1	20.0	76.0	Romania	Junior Professional Officer	76.0
41.3	34.0	–	Czech Republic	Junior Professional Officer	–
–	72.5	–	Slovak Republic	Junior Professional Officer	–
52.0	74.0	24.0	Poland	Junior Professional Officer	24.0
				See Overview Tables (Part II)	
555.5	257.5	1,199.9		TOTAL (2)	115.0
2,662.5	2,660.2	5,131.1		GRAND TOTAL (1+2)	4,390.6

a/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes
b/ obligation incurred under the General Allocation for Voluntary Repatriation
c/ allocation made from Other Programmes

UNITED
NATIONS

A

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HIGH COMMISSIONER'S PROGRAMME

Forty-sixth session

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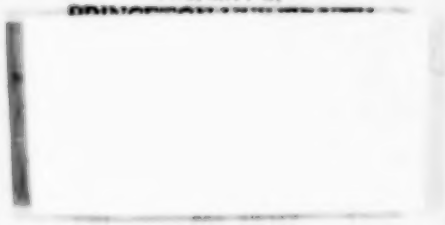


UNHCR ACTIVITIES FINANCED BY VOLUNTARY FUNDS: REPORT FOR 1994-1995 AND PROPOSED PROGRAMMES AND BUDGET FOR 1996

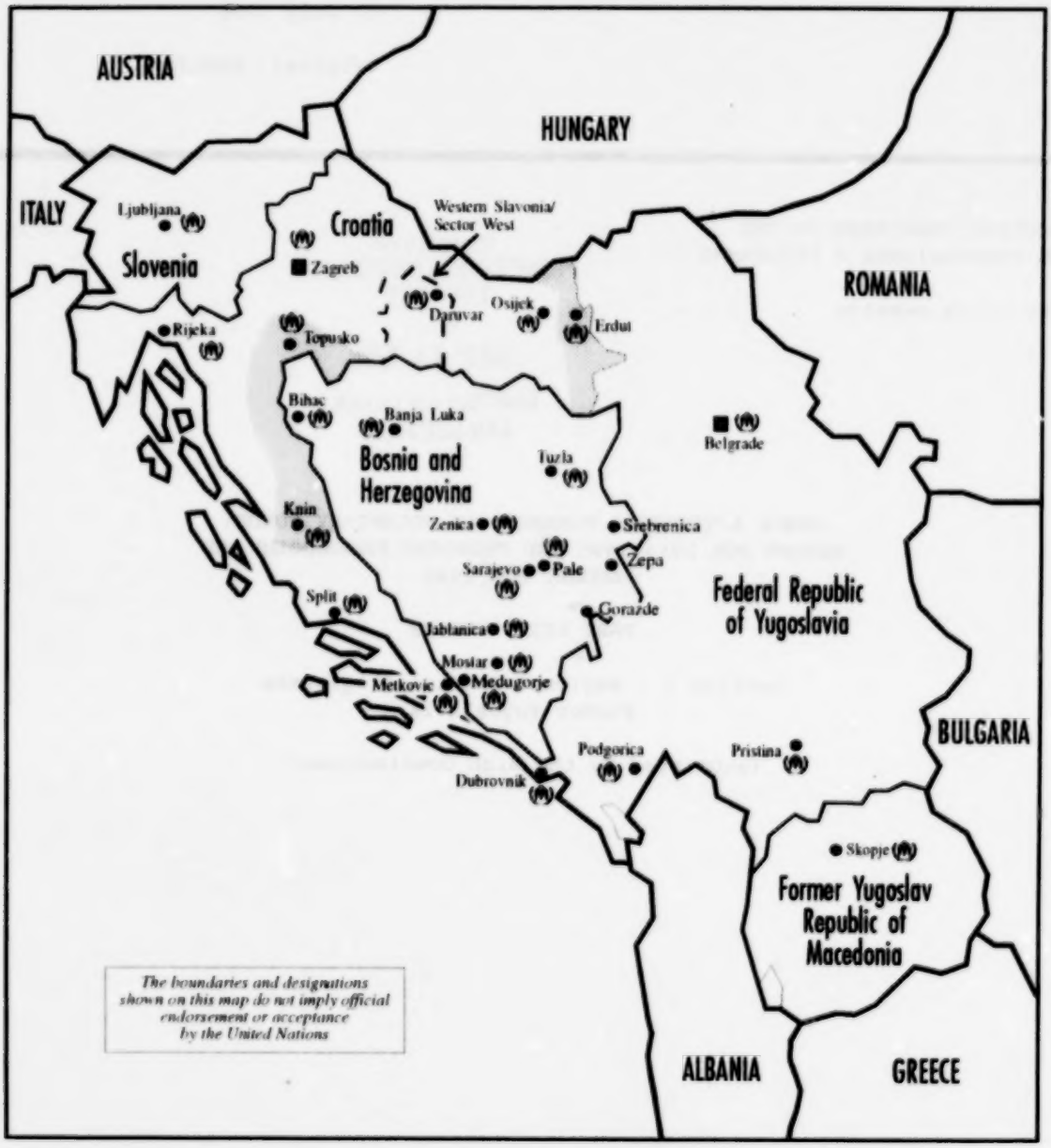
PART III. EUROPE

Section 5 - Regional Special Programmes
Former Yugoslavia

(submitted by the High Commissioner)

GE.95-02318

FORMER YUGOSLAVIA



UNHCR Offices

UN Sectors

III.5 REGIONAL SPECIAL PROGRAMMES FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

1. Beneficiary population

1. At 31 December 1994, the target beneficiary population assisted under the Special Operation for Former Yugoslavia numbered more than 3.5 million refugees, displaced persons and war-affected persons in the region. The following table provides a breakdown of these figures:

	Refugees	Displaced persons	War-affected
Bosnia and Herzegovina	--	1,282,587	1,456,732
Croatia	183,600	307,000	--
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	195,460	--	76,000
Slovenia	29,150	--	--
FYROM	8,000	--	10,000
Totals	416,210	1,589,587	1,542,732

2. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the planning figure for WFP rations from August 1994 was 1.4 million persons. These rations were distributed to a wider population according to defined categories ranging from vulnerable cases to those in need of a partial ration only. Throughout the second half of 1994 and in the first quarter of 1995, decreases in the assisted population were registered in The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Slovenia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

3. The target population will be further reduced to 2.1 million for the second half of 1995. The figures remain unchanged in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Croatia while figures in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia will be reduced to 185,000, in Slovenia to 27,500 and in The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to 7,000. These figures take into account the termination of assistance to national social cases as of 30 June 1995 in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. UNHCR continues to support a small group of Mandate refugees of other nationalities under the General Programmes in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

2. Developments in 1994 and 1995

4. Events in the spring of 1994 nurtured the hope that a peaceful solution might be forthcoming in the region. The siege of Sarajevo was lifted and an agreement was signed between the Bosnian Government and Croats including a cease-fire. A cease-fire was also arranged between the Government of Croatia and

the Serbian authorities in the former United Nations Protected Areas (UNPAs). Access to the target population became easier and commercial traffic resumed in Central Bosnia. A satisfactory harvest followed by a FAO/WFP survey resulted in a decrease of the planning figure for basic food commodities in all Republics. With the exception of a few problem areas, the situation had stabilized. These developments gave rise to a revision downwards of the UNHCR financial target for 1994 from $ 338 million to $ 252 million, reflected in the revised inter-agency appeal for former Yugoslavia issued in September 1994. This budgetary revision affected all sectors of assistance.

5. By autumn 1994 it had become clear that humanitarian assistance would continue to be required throughout a third winter of the conflict. Outside the Federation area in Central Bosnia there were further violations of human rights, particularly regarding ethnic minority groups. Military activities increased in several regions and tensions resurfaced within the Federation area. In the Bihac pocket fighting intensified between the separatist forces and those of the Bosnian Government. Access once again was hampered by blockages and a deterioration in security affected both land and air routes to the Republic. Fighting in the Bihac enclave resulted in the outflow of 30,000 refugees to former UNPA North, where they were assisted temporarily until December 1994 when the majority returned home following a successful offensive by separatist forces. Bosnian Muslims from the north of Bosnia and Herzegovina continued to seek asylum in Croatia following ethnic cleansing in the Banja Luka region.

6. The year 1995 began with a cessation of hostilities agreement between the Bosnian Government and the Bosnian Serb authorities. The consequent lull in the fighting allowed most assistance activities to continue with the exception of those in the Bihac area. However, from the outset of spring, hostilities resurfaced with a resurgence of military activities along confrontation lines in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Neither the Government nor the Serb authorities agreed to extend the cessation agreement. Access has become increasingly tenuous. This has affected delivery of food and other relief items, in particular to Sarajevo, where the airlift was suspended from 8 April. Food and other supplies were also in short supply in the eastern enclaves and particularly Bihac, where the warehouses were virtually empty as from mid-May.

7. On 1 May, Croatian armed forces launched an attack in western Slavonia (Sector West). The Serbian forces in the "Krajina", while withdrawing from the area, retaliated by shelling several Croatian towns including Zagreb. As a result of the fighting, some 7,000 persons, practically all of Serb origin, sought refuge in northern Bosnia (Banja Luka region) during the first days of the fighting.

8. On 3 May, a Cessation of Hostilities Agreement went into force after negotiations by the Special Representative of the Secretary-General with the parties to the conflict, inter alia, provided the possibility for all civilians and military personnel who so wished to leave Sector West under United Nations surveillance. As of 26 May, 2,138 persons had gone to northern Bosnia in this way, with UNHCR's role being limited to monitoring the voluntary character of the movement. An estimated 11,000 persons have gone to northern Bosnia from Sector West since 10 May. As a result of the fighting and the arrival of the refugees in

northern Bosnia, the situation, particularly for the Croat minority there, significantly deteriorated and many have expressed the wish to leave the area, which, however, at the beginning of June was impossible because the border to Croatia remains closed. A group of about 200 persons went to Central Bosnia and Herzegovina. UNHCR is also aware of secondary moves of refugees from Sector West in northern Bosnia to other places in Serb-controlled parts of Bosnia and Herzegovina and of some 4,000 who have gone to Sector East transiting through the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, where between 1,500 and 2,000 remain.

9. The refugee situation in the Banja Luka area has also been further aggravated by the arrival of some 2,500 displaced persons fleeing new fighting in the Bihac/Ripac area resulting in an advance of the Bosnian army.

3. 1996 country programmes

10. The UNHCR assistance programme in former Yugoslavia since its inception in 1992 has been shaped by political and military developments. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia, UNHCR continues contingency planning to cope with new developments, while in Slovenia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia traditional care and maintenance support is given. As lead agency, UNHCR pursues its coordination role of the assistance operation in all Republics in 1995. Eight other United Nations agencies are involved in an inter-agency operation and regular consolidated appeals are issued on a biannual basis. A decrease in the volume of funding has also influenced the planning policies of UNHCR and other agencies.

(a) Objectives

11. The 1995 assistance objectives in all Republics have therefore concentrated on the following areas of concern: access to beneficiaries and contingency planning; capacity-building of local institutions and agencies; provision of logistical support; monitoring of assistance; provision of fresh food/domestic/hygiene items and promotion of the local production of these items; implementation of winterization strategy; support and repair to collective centres; support to host family arrangements; support to primary and specialized health care and educational institutions; and community services. The majority of the programmes are focused on the specific needs of women, children and the elderly and other vulnerable cases in this distressing military conflict. The prolonged conflict has created a stressful and tragic situation for separated families. Host families who have provided support for more than three years are in many cases no longer able to assist their guests.

12. Two major sectors risk scaling down. Firstly, the WFP food pipeline may be jeopardized during the coming months and secondly, bilateral donations related to the contribution to convoy operations will be decreased, which will result in UNHCR's reduced capacity to provide regular food and non-food supplies and to provide logistical support to other United Nations agencies. The warehouse capacity in the region will be reduced by more than 30 per cent by July 1995. UNHCR plans to continue its support to the Sarajevo airlift operation in Ancona, Italy, and to the airdrop operation which is managed in Ramstein, Germany, although to date no airdrops have taken place in 1995. Furthermore, if the working

environment remains untenable for the humanitarian organizations, UNHCR and its implementing partners will be obliged to suspend not only the delivery of relief items but other projects and services for the target population.

13. Throughout former Yugoslavia surveys concerning assessment of needs and revision of the number of beneficiaries are an important part of the 1995 programme. In all Republics the target population is closely monitored with the support of governmental and independent institutions. In 1995 the seed programmes have been assured by FAO. It is planned to repeat the FAO/WFP 1994 survey to assess the impact of the 1995 harvest and the economic situation on the food aid programme in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia United Nations agencies and NGOs are still subject to United Nations sanctions procedures for the clearance of relief items to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and goods transiting to eastern Bosnia and Herzegovina, and for the delivery of relief items from Croatia to Bosnian Serb areas.

14. UNHCR will continue its important protection role in the region, in conjunction with other agencies, particularly the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). In addition to its traditional activities, particular attention is paid to the harassment and physical abuse of minorities and, where necessary, assistance is provided for their evacuation. Training seminars for government and NGO participants are planned throughout the region in 1995.

15. UNHCR maintains the position as formulated in June 1994 on the question of voluntary repatriation. While spontaneous return movements have taken place to Croatia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina, both from countries outside former Yugoslavia and within the region, UNHCR has not organized a repatriation programme and will not do so until conditions exist to encourage the return of refugees and displaced persons under conditions of safety and dignity. A Mass Information Project to provide updated information for returnees to Bosnia and Herzegovina is still at the planning stage due to the deteriorating situation in the Republic.

16. At the local level UNHCR will continue to provide assistance to a few thousand Croatian displaced persons to return to their former homes in the Dalmatian hinterland and to support temporary resettlement programmes to third countries. It is expected that some 10,000 persons will benefit from this organized departure in 1995. Operation ReUNite continues to use modern technology to trace unaccompanied minors who are separated from their families due to upheaval from the conflict.

(b) Proposed budgets for 1996

(i) General Programmes

17. In **Slovenia** and **The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** it is hoped that a stable situation will continue with a gradual decrease in the population. UNHCR will provide care and maintenance to those refugees for whom a durable solution cannot be achieved, particularly in Slovenia where it is expected that eventually refugees will be able to obtain the temporary right to work. The protection role of UNHCR would continue in these two Republics and assistance activities such as

income-generation, education and support to vulnerable groups would be the focus of the programme. It is therefore proposed that the UNHCR assistance programmes in Slovenia and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia be transferred to General Programmes in 1996.

18. In 1996, UNHCR will continue to assist and resettle a small group of mandate refugees from outside former Yugoslavia in the **Federal Republic of Yugoslavia** under the 1996 General Programmes. The same level of funding will be required in 1996 as in 1995.

(ii) **Special Programmes**

19. At the time of writing, the situation in **Bosnia and Herzegovina** had deteriorated to such an extent that some UNHCR personnel were being withdrawn. It is not possible to predict events in 1996 and therefore very difficult to provide a detailed plan for humanitarian assistance. The situation in **Croatia** is also very volatile and in the **Federal Republic of Yugoslavia** there are new arrivals which may increase in the coming months if the conflict continues to escalate.

20. UNHCR may be required to meet humanitarian needs throughout a fourth winter of conflict. It is foreseen that if the situation is contained the assistance programme will remain at the same level. A certain degree of contingency planning is included in the 1995 programme which will be continued in 1996. In Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, barring major outflows of refugees from Bosnia and Herzegovina, the level of funding required will remain the same in 1996. The objectives will be those adhered to in 1995 with an increased focus on capacity-building of local non-governmental agencies and institutions, durable solutions or self-sufficiency where possible. In the event of a massive and organized repatriation programme, UNHCR would be expected to play a major role. Precise needs for 1996 are therefore not yet known and a planning exercise for 1996 will be conducted in the second half of 1995.

(c) **Implementing partners**

21. Up to 60 implementing partners are working with UNHCR in 1995, including government counterparts, international and local non-governmental agencies. Regular coordination meetings were held in all major localities which were attended by UNHCR partners and other non-governmental agencies. Some of these agencies have supported the UNHCR projects since 1992 and have gained valuable experience in working in conflict zones. The focus has been to train and strengthen local NGOs to assume a growing responsibility in all sectors of assistance. It is expected that many of these partners will remain with UNHCR in 1996.

(i) **United Nations peace-keeping forces**

22. UNHCR had also funded a project with the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) on the repair of humanitarian routes and received valuable support in the delivery of humanitarian assistance in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in coordination with the United Nations Confidence Restoration Operation (UNCRO) in the Sectors in Croatia.

(d) Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Costs

23. Variations due to changes in budget parameters are not discussed in the subsequent analysis (Overview of UNHCR Activities, Part I (A/AC.96/845) refers).

(i) 1994 expenditure (all sources of funds)

24. The 1994 expenditure was lower than revised estimates due to an overall decrease in the programme as explained above. Savings were made through the non-filling of posts and the deferral of all but the most essential equipment purchases.

(ii) Revised 1995 requirements (all sources of funds)

25. The revised 1995 Programme Delivery and Administrative Support requirements are lower than initial estimates mainly because significant staff reductions were effected in all countries of the former Yugoslavia, resulting also in a consequent decrease in operating expenditure.

(iii) Initial 1996 requirements (all sources of funds)

26. Given the volatile situation in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and Croatia, which also has a major impact on the situation in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, precise needs in these countries are impossible to predict at this time.

27. In The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Slovenia, where the situation is more stable, it is proposed to finance the 1996 Programme Delivery and Administrative Support Requirements from General Programmes. In both cases, the requirements are not significantly different from revised 1995 estimates and encompass staff salaries and common staff costs for the nine staff members in each office, travel costs as well as the general operating costs of the offices in Skopje and Ljubljana.

UNHCR EXPENDITURE IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA

(in thousands of United States dollars)

1994	1995		1996	
AMOUNT OBLIGATED	ALLOCATION APPROVED BY 1994 EXCOM	PROPOSED REVISED ALLOCATION	SOURCE OF FUNDS AND TYPE OF ASSISTANCE	PROPOSED ALLOCATION/ PROJECTION
GENERAL PROGRAMMES (1)				
195.9	137.5	211.8	CARE AND MAINTENANCE	
			– Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	211.8
			– Former Yugoslav Rep.of Macedonia	2,110.0
			– Slovenia	2,330.0
4.2 a/	–	–	VOLUNTARY REPATRIATION	–
9.7 b/	14.6	–	RESETTLEMENT	–
			PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	
–	–	–	– Former Yugoslav Rep.of Macedonia	471.3
–	–	–	– Slovenia	419.8
209.8	**152.1**	**211.8**	**SUB–TOTAL OPERATIONS**	**5,542.9**
			ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Annexes I b and II b	
–	–	–	– Former Yugoslav Rep.of Macedonia	33.4
–	–	–	– Slovenia	42.2
209.8	**152.1**	**211.8**	**T O T A L (1)**	**5,618.5**
SPECIAL PROGRAMMES (2)				
190,215.8	257,778.3	123,102.9	HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO DISPLACED PERSONS FROM THE FORMER YUGOSLAVIA	– c/
32,050.1	33,979.2	25,475.9	PROGRAMME DELIVERY See Overview Tables (Part II)	413.5 c/
3,544.6	4,726.7	3,480.6	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT See Overview Tables (Part II)	66.1 c/
462.4	–	–	OTHER TRUST FUNDS	–
42.1	81.0	70.0	ADMINISTRATIVE SUPPORT Junior Professional Officer See Overview Tables (Part II)	–
226,315.0	**296,565.2**	**152,129.4**	**T O T A L (2)**	**479.6**
226,524.8	**296,717.3**	**152,341.2**	**GRAND TOTAL (1+2)**	**6,098.1**

a/ obligation incurred against Other Programmes
b/ of which US$ 2,350 incurred against the Other Programmes
c/ total requirements not yet known